(d) No, Sir.

(e) At present the gross registered tonnage of the Indian shipping stands at 6.22 million tones as on 31st October, 2002.

(f) Yes, sir. The Government has taken various measures to increase the gross registered tonnage, such as:

- Import of all types of ships have been included in the OGL;
- Ships (including second hand ships) can be imported freely now without license as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of shipping on 15th June, 2001 and 5th March, 2002;
- 100 percent FDI is allowed in shipping sector;
- The proposed custom duty of 5% on import of Ships in the Finance Bill for 2001-2002, has been done away with.
- Enhancement of Depreciation rate from 20% to 25% for Ships.
- Section 33AC of IT Act has been made more attractive for Indian Shipping Companies. The limit upto which reserves could be built up by the shipping companies for new acquisition will now include general reserves and share premium reserves also. Earlier it was limited to twice the paid up capital of the shipping companies.

Liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers in Andhra Pradesh

571. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers is under implementation in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of scavengers liberated and rehabilitated in the State, so far; and

(d) the number of scavengers in the State yet to be rehabilitated and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been implementing rehabilitation programme for scavengers since 1992-93 onwards under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS) for scavengers and their dependents. Out of 30,921 scavengers and their dependents, 19,641 have been rehabilitated and 8056 were given training upto October, 2002.

(d) Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared "Andhra Pradesh Mission of Eradication of Manual Scavenging and Rehabilitation of Scavengers" in September, 2001 with a goal to declare Andhra Pradesh as a manual scavenger free State by the end of year 2002. The balance 11,280 scavengers are proposed to be rehabilitated by the end of 2002.

Committee to study the functioning of NGOs

572. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is disbursing crores of rupees every year to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's);

(b) if so, whether a large number of complaints have been received by his Ministry regarding misuse and non-receipt of the funds;

(c) whether a committee of non-officials was constituted to study the functioning of the NGOs;

(d) if so, by when the committee is likely to submit the report; and

(e) the action taken, so far, against the NGOs who have not used the money properly in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. However, it is fact that a few of the Non-Governmental Organization receiving funds from the Ministry are not delivering services commensurate with the funds released and are misusing the funds.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) The details are given in the enclosed statement.